Agreement between the National Research Development Corporation and China

*73. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Research Development Corporation is entering into any agreement with China to have a technology barter arrangement ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) The National Research Development Corporation is proposing to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with an appropriate Chinese Technology Transfer Organisation for licensing of Indian Technologies in China and for licensing to Indian Orgaisations those chinese technologies which are not available indigenously.

(b) The National Research Development Corporation had organised in association with the State Science and Technology Commission and Beijing Municipal Commission on Science and Technology of China, Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, an International Exhibition-cum-Seminar on selected technologies from India and China at Indian Agricultural Research Institute on April 1 & 2, 1993. The main objective of the Exhibition-cum-Seminar was to facilitate the transfer of technologies developed in India and China not only to one another but also to other developing countries, particularly those of the Asia Pacific Region.

25 Chinese and 11 Indian organisations participated in the Exhibition and around 60 Chinese delegates from R&D Institutes and Industry attended the Seminar. Representatives from some other Asia Pacific countries viz. Japan, Bangladesh and Nepal also attended the seminar.

The Exhibition-cum-Seminar focussed attention on the use of new products and technologies in the following areas :

1. Ecological Sustainable Agriculture
2. Agriculture and Food Processing
3. Acquaculture
4. Renewable Energy
5. Building Materials
6. Waste Utilisation|Recycling
7. Chemicals
8. Medicine
9. Energy Saving Technologies
10. Environmentally Friendly Technologies.

Impending closure of DAP industry

*74. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the impending closure of DAP industry due to cancellation|suspension of Phosphoric Acid shipments; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government propose to retrieve the Industry from the present crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) and (b) Consequent on the decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers w.e.f. 25-8-1992 and also decanalisation of DAP imports, procedures|suppliers are free to sell phosphatic fertilizers in the open market at prices to be determined

by them, with no subsidy from the Government. Following this, prices of decontrolled fertilizers went up and demand has also been sluggish. Imported DAP is available at a considerably lower price compared to the cost of production of indigenous units. Faced with this situation, there are reports that various DAP units have suspended production. There are also reports that a number of units have not contracted for fresh supplies of phosphoric acid and ammonia.

In dealing with this situation, Government are keen to ensure supplies at affordable prices to farmers. Accordingly the focus is to help the industry to bring down their cost of production and become more competitive. Government has already abolished customs duty on import of phosphoric acid. Government has also announced a scheme of refund of customs duty paid on capital goods, as also a concession of 3 per cent in interest rate on term loans, provided that the net interest rate after adjustment of this concession remains at a minimum of 12 per cent. These concessions are available to all the fertilizer plants commissioned on or after 1-1-1991. It is also reported that the phosphatic industry has filed an application for initiating anti-dumping proceedings in respect of imported DAP.

उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए बोर्ड का गठन

*75. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या **योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री** 4 मार्च, 1993 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1322 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए बोर्ड के गठन के संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय लिया जा चुका है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं, और

(घ) इस संबंध में निर्णय कब तक लिए जाने की संभावना है ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) योजना आयोग ने इसी बीच हिमालय के एकीकृत विकास के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय नीति तैयार करने हेतु सदस्य (विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी एवं पर्यावरण) की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन किया है। उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए एक शीर्ष निकाय के गठन के बारे में अंतिम निर्णय, विशेषज्ञ दल की सिफारिशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया जाएगा।

Clandestine Trade in Computers

*76. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the clandestine trade in computers in the country and sale of computers without payment of any taxes;

(b) whether Government have made any study of the problem;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the modus operandi of the persons involved in the trade, the estimated number of the computers suspected to be sold in the market and the estimated loss of revenues caused during 1991 and 1992; and

(d) in what manner in which Government propose to check the menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE